

JUL 15 1968

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Eldridge

3232 Volta Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007

July 6, 1968

Dear Mr. Lederman

While we engage in "searching debate" on whether to build an ABM the Soviet Union is busy perfecting an AB system protecting Moscow and planning a system that will protect the whole country from our missiles.

When this system is completed and we are, presumably, still engaging in "searching debate," what do you suppose the security of the U.S. will be? Absolutely non-existent. The cold war will be over and we will have surrendered.

All innovation in armaments has been subject to the same conditions as your advance for the ABM.

Suppose we had waited for the perfection of the nuclear sub-marine.

(over)

(2)

the helicopter, the ballistic missile,
before deploying them? Where would we
be today? A colony of a power
which doesn't let the threat of
~~Obsolescence~~ hold back the assurance
of security.

The ^{Weisner} Karpinovsky-McNamara
argument that perfecting the ABM
would "nearly increase" the enemy's
"offensive forces" is just about
as insipid as another judgment
emanating from the same source
that we must permit the enemy
to achieve equality with us in
nuclear weapons in order to have them
consider disarmament.

I notice that Russia decided
to undertake disarmament talks
soon after the Senate turned
down the Cooper-Hastert effort to
postpone work on the ABM.

Thank God that L.B.J. will not
be able to "defer spending" the money
appropriated for the ABM after
Jan 20, next.

Very truly yours

G.R. Kirby